

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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USOAS:MR. FORD

L/ARA:MR. GANTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAN/SALVADORAN RELATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4947 AND 4960

1. AT REQUEST OF HONDURAN CHARGE, AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA, AS CHAIRMAN, HAS CALLED MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF SEVEN FOR 10:45 A.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 CHARGE WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY DETAILS OF PROPOSED HONDURAN PRESENTATION.

2. SINCE INVOCATION OF PACT OF BOGOTA WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, WE PRESUME GOH HAS IN MIND REQUESTING SPECIAL MEETING OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL LATER IN WEEK. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, PACT OF BOGOTA OFFERS SEVERAL OPTIONAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING CHAPTER TWO PROCEDURE OF GOOD OFFICES AND MEDIATION, CHAPTER THREE PROCEDURE OF INVESTIGATION AND CONCILIATION, AND CHAPTER FIVE PROCEDURE OF ARBITRATION. PRECISE MANNER OF INVOKING PACT MAY DIFFER DEPENDING ON PROCEDURE CHOSEN BUT PRESUMABLY GOH WOULD IN ANY EVENT WANT TO MAKE ITS CASE TO PERMANENT COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL.

3. IT IS NOT TOTALLY CLEAR TO US WHETHER APPARENT GOH DECISION TO INVOKE PACT OF BOGOTA RESTS ON LEGAL OPINION (WHICH WE DO NOT SHARE) THAT GOES OBLIGATIONS UNDER INVOKED PACT WILL CONTINUE EVEN AFTER EXPIRATION OF YEAR FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 26, 1973 DENUNCIATION (I.E., THAT GOH VIEWS

INVOCATION NOW AS MOVE TO PROTECT GENUINE LEGAL RIGHTS) OR WHETHER DECISION TAKEN LARGELY FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF CONTINUING UTILIZATION OF ANY OF PROCEDURES SPELLED OUT IN PACT.

4. FINALLY, WE ARE SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED THAT GOH, WHICH PRESUMABLY IS AWARE OF POSSIBLE GOES STRONG REACTION TO ANY EFFORT TO INVOKE PACT, SEES INVOCATION OF PACT AND RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED OUTSIDE OF PACT AS BEING MUTUALLY COMPATIBLE STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA COMMENTS OR CLARIFICATION OF POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE, PARTICULARLY ON PROCEDURE GOH LIKELY TO CHOOSE IN INVOCATION OF PACT AND EXPECTATIONS OF GOH AS TO REAL BENEFITS OF INVOCATION. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR INVITED TO COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE. GDS KISSINGER

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